

his dominions in a month by the moon.

So tell full they did call they had in that month
of folly would fill a hundred volumes - too
many to write or to read.

There were tournaments amongst the knights
dancing with the cross - and for the golden
squires; there was riding at the ring, & dancing
in the hall & dancing on the green. There
was song & feasting every night & ^{sports} ~~feasts~~

spaciously every day. As for the shows, every-
thing in history & every thing in story was
set forth for the delight of the people. And Duke
Noel this lady gave prizes to whoever could pilot
the biggest stone, or shoot the truest arrow, or come
off victorious in the combats between the knights.

There was only one thing that spoiled the pleasure
of Duke Noel. It was such a little thing that he
would not say a word about it to anybody,
but he could not get it off his mind.

He kept open house as we have said. In every
body for a whole month, he did not know
all his guests either by name or by sight.

There was one old woman that everyone noticed &
none spoke to; she was nobody's friend, &
nobody seemed to know where she had come
from. But people pulled their clothes about
them to make room for her when she passed
by, & even the children stopped their play to get
out of her way.

Though she was bent - nearly double & walked with
two sticks, she stood higher than any man
there. Her back for now came halfway over
her chin. Long horrible fangs, twisted & nearly
black.

black, the only teeth she had left. She cut out of
her mouth like the teeth of a bear. Her skin, dark,
~~wrinkled~~ filthy, hung in loose creases about her
face; ^{one} ~~her~~ ferret-eye gleamed from under her
brows; her lean body was clothed in a foul-
smelling sheep-skin - the only garment she
wore: hanging amongst the ragged locks of her
gray hair, a horrible ornament - rattled as she
moved, - ~~was it a circle~~ ^{with} of the bones, ~~the bones~~ ^{padding}
jingles?

Now it seemed that this beg had no business with
anyone at the feast - but ^{with} ~~he~~ himself. Whence
he moved, in ~~and~~ amongst his people, with a
vulpine this one & a smile for that, then seen
he was, before him, fixing his wicked eye upon
him, smothering at him with her horrible
teeth.

Even his bed-chamber was not free of her; he
would wake in the night from a bad dream with
a sudden start & there, in the pitch-darkness,
~~was something looking at him with a wicked~~
^{flaring at him}

glare, ~~she knew it was the one ferret-eye of~~
the beg. On he would hear the horrible rattle of
the jingle-bones. ^{there} ~~that he knew she was~~
performing ~~some~~ with that dance upon his
chamber-floor.

All this time she never spoke, but-dressed the
dark like his shadow; was he sleeping or
waking, eating or playing, there she was, making
the blood run chill in his veins with the flar
of her evil eye. She haunted him like a
sin he had done, and - that was good & could
not

gazing in a wistful look; while her hot ^{(67) 14} good heart
cannot let him of his face to shrivel.
After that, she disappeared, none knew where; &
Hoel never saw her again: but, soon enough, he
had ~~litter~~ come to remember the helpful beg.

A Baby is born.

Again, a year & a day passed by in peace &
prosperity - for Hoel & for all Armorica, his people
sowed the ground & gathered their crops, & made money
in after sunset in their apple orchards, for
Hoel was their very faithful lord.

Then, in his great hall, he heard all came that his
people brought before him solid justified belief in
man & man. Did a peasant come to him
with a tale of distress, that the floods had
carried off his little crops, that the rain poured
through his roof, that wife & children were
down with the fever - Hoel let no great good
under his feet - but mounted his black
mare, Leopold, & away to the spot: very it is a hundred
miles off, that he might see ^{with} his own
eyes ~~judge for himself~~ ^{that} need there was for
help.

Therefore his people both trusted & feared him, to
good & honest - very not afraid to come to their
lord with a tale of trouble, for they knew he would
soon find out the truth of it - for himself.

But the long & lying beggars were in most
countries, many like letters to the skirts of the
~~most diligent~~ diligent, found that
Armorica was no longer a good country
for

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here thick, ^{my darling} ~~the walls~~ which covered a great
space ~~no~~ ^{the} ~~bigness of a room~~, they looked out upon
thousands & thousands of cottages & farm-houses, each
nestled in the green of its own fruit-trees.

They knew who lived in every house, & where
was the young & where was the old: and when
Griest's heart swelled within her to think
that it was thanks to the presence of her good
husband that all the folk of Harmonie were
happy & content. Almost all that is, for there
is a shade that pinches in every house under
the best lord that ever ruled. But Griest
never saw a rosy child or a blushing dame
but she remembered the agonized wretches
they came amongst when Griest her lord
^{begins to} ~~had~~ ^{die} the land of the giants.

But there was one little longing no bigger than
a ^{pinch} of salt in a peck ^{of food}, which vexed
in the hearts of both Karl & his wife. If they
might but hear the patter of little feet in
the great chambers of the palace, hear children's
voices ring through the ^{well} ~~corridors~~!

Now whenever Karl brought about a little child
much as he wanted one, his flesh crept like
poor flesh, just as if someone had walked
over his grave. And the witch's jingling
rhyme burned itself upon his brain: ~~in letters~~
of fire.

"His ^{little} shall be given
For the being that shall live!
He! he give him joy!"

Thomas

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Whereas this wretched jingle came back upon him,
he would have looped out - y'know what, though it
was the dearest jingle - & gallop like a madman
through the country. ^{from home} ~~from home~~, ~~he would~~
the thought - ~~and~~ ^{ing} ~~was~~ in his head & that
he ~~would~~ ride hard for a week together & never
dismount, ~~stop~~ ^{ing} drawing rein now & then
at a house to ask for water bread & ~~drink~~ ^{some}.

Spindle.
When Francis missed her last, there was nothing
for her but to stop at home with ~~an aching~~ ^{not}
heart. She knew how had a secret. trouble
troubled that he might judge her worthy to
share it; but - little she guessed, sweet lady,
what the trouble ~~was~~; that it was the thought
of losing her which drove ~~her~~ ^{her husband} abroad like a
man bereft of his wits.

Many months ^{he} passed away peacefully; then, at
last - word was brought to the duke on his return
from a journey that a child was born to him,
a daughter, ~~that~~ ^{that} if he would breed ⁱⁿ ~~in~~
his lady's chamber, he might see the little

~~mother~~ ^{mother} ~~had~~ ^{had} forgot the fears that had tormented him.
Joy got into his head like wine & he
hurried off with long strides to his lady's
bower. There was the lady Francis ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ
crouching up at him like an angel; & there
by the bedside, was the mere dawning
of a queer little bundle, done up tight, showing
nothing but a red patch the size of a full-blown rose by
way of face - two red dimples, ^{each as} ^{as} the ~~big~~ ^{big} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~marks~~ ^{marks}.

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lady, the blessed lady, should be christened! She
a royal princess, who treated no better than
a babe born in a bog!"

Sir Selam scratched his head & said nothing,
but Gure was satisfied, for she knew by his
eye that he was of her own mind in the
matter: every soul in Retignoon knew that
when Sir Selam made up his mind about
it a thing was as good as done.
And it was time for the royal child to bear a name
to be treated as a little Christian princess. She
was six months old that very day, & her father
had never looked upon her since the coronation
night - when ^{she lay on} ~~he had held her~~ a moment - laying
her upon his great hand. It was in vain that
nurse Gamal had tried to waylay him with
the honey-baby in her arms: no sooner did he
catch sight of woman's garments than he
would stride away & shut himself up in that
high tower chamber where he spent his solitary
days. He went no more to chase or war. Nor
more did he sit in the great hall to do justice
^{through} ~~between~~ his people, or to pass their feast with
his royal presence. With hair uncut & face
unshaven, with doublet hanging loose &
hands hanging listless, eating little & saying
less, he sat: day after day, in the deep embrasure
of a window, his lips moving now & then to
mutter, "His bride shall be five!"
Sir Selam did not get to work again, for Sir Selam
saw to everything; not a baby was born, not
an old woman was laid with rheumatism.

in all Brittany, but he knew it: ^{25p18-2033} the vast thoughts
whose lives no thought, now was this time, found
themselves kept in check by a firm hand. Rich-
ard once before was not happy in his work. He
was filled with sorrow & shame for the living rather
than for the dead; for how could his lord sit
there nursing his grief & neglecting the work
the good God had given him?

But the Christening! yes; here was a chance to
wake the duke out of his sorrow. So Richard set
about preparations for ~~such~~ a christening
worthy of the daughter of such a father & such
a mother. And every day, while the cooking &
furbishing went on, he stood before the duke &
said, -

"Let ~~us~~ ^{we} invite Prince Lancelot, to do honour to
the Lady Guinevere's daughter."

And that would look up, although he winced at
first when he heard his wife's name, by & by he got
used to it, & ~~found~~ took pleasure for the first time
in the thought of honouring his ^{own} child.

So Richard invited every royal prince of France
in all every great lord with - his lady is
all Gaul - Moreover, he sent across seas to
King Arthur himself a messenger ~~who should~~
to tell him the lamentable of Duke Noels loss
& ~~and~~ a demented grief.

"This will never do," said the king, when the
messenger had ^{done} told his errand. "We must
go & ~~save~~ ^{rescue} our nephew from the grip of this
devouring sorrow."

So the king commanded that the state barges,
with golden prow & silken sails should be
ready, he took with him the Queen Guinevere,
herself with lovely ladies of her train, & the knights

knights of his Round Table, + all the other great-
lords of his dominions who came as special from
their governments. And a great sight it was to see
the royal noble Company embark from the fair
candy of Lyons, to watch their shining ships
sailing away towards the sunrise.

Meantime, immense preparations were being
made at Perpignan. The palace, large as it was,
could not hold nearly all the guests, +
silver pavilions were put up about the country
for the accommodation of the great-lords
for whom there was no room. There were ~~many~~
bowers, too, made of green boughs + carpeted with
fresh straw + rushes, for the use of the ladies.

At last the great-day arrived, + all the princely company
~~had been~~ ^{were} right royally received, including King
Arthur + Queen Guinevere + their noble retinue
of knights + ladies. The archbishop himself
~~had come~~ to christen the child + the king +
the queen were to stand for her.

Lis Isarn went to the bishop's chamber to help
him into his state robes, + through the robes
being loose as it made for a bigger man, it
was a sorrowful thing to see his black locks
become ^{white} as those of an old man, yet he ~~looked~~
looked every inch a prince as he ~~stepped~~ ^{entered}
into the great-hall, holding up his head +
stepping with the lordly air by which he had
been known ^{among Arthur's knights.} ~~throughout his life.~~

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And the baby? Well, if her father looked a prince
she looked every inch a princess, though there
were not so many inches of her. I was proud to
see her sitting up straight in her nurse's arms,
dressed in her lovely christening robe, &
wearing a crown of gold - her own bright
hair, like her mother's - two beautiful gems
such as not a lady then could boast - her
sapphire eyes, which must have come straight
out of heaven for there was nothing on earth to
match them. ^{with straight hair}
Then she sat ^{with straight hair} ~~down a little~~ ^{allowing her}
dainty little hand to be raised, but declining
to let anyone take her, until the beautiful green
came ~~shook out her hands~~ ^{from the child held}
out her arms with a lovely smile which the
green ^{who had no babies} put away in her heart among her
most precious things.

"And how shall we crown this dainty maid?"
said the king. "By my troth, if I could see her
crowned in her mansion in every court in
Christendom, her blue eyes ~~beautify her~~
What - sayst thou, Merlin?"

Now Merlin was the King's Wise Man. ~~But~~
~~never entered in any great surprise that~~
~~to guide to the coronation with Merlin in affairs~~
of state, in matters great & small, Merlin advised
him: ~~there was never a deed of power~~
performed down through his vast dominions
but Merlin had the ~~was~~ acquainted with it
in the twinkling of an eye: ~~there was no electric~~
telegraph.